



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Raised Bill No. 1011

LCO No. 3232

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ANIMAL POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 22-380e of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 As used in sections 22-380e to 22-380m, inclusive, as amended by
4 this act:

5 (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Agriculture;

6 (2) "Program" means the animal population control program;

7 (3) "Account" means the animal population control account;

8 (4) "Participating veterinarian" means any veterinarian who has
9 been [approved as a participating veterinarian] certified to participate
10 in the program by the commissioner;

11 (5) "Pound" means any state or municipal facility where
12 impounded, quarantined or stray dogs and cats are kept or any

13 veterinary hospital or commercial kennel where such dogs or cats are
14 kept by order of a municipality; [and]

15 (6) "Eligible owner" means a person who has purchased or adopted
16 a dog or cat from a pound and who is a resident of this state;

17 (7) "Medically unfit" means any medical condition, as determined
18 by a participating veterinarian, that may place a dog or cat at life-
19 threatening risk if a surgical procedure is performed on such animal or
20 a dog or cat under the age of six months that is of insufficient age to be
21 sterilized as determined by a participating veterinarian;

22 (8) "Neuter" means the surgical procedure of castration on a male
23 dog or cat;

24 (9) "Spay" means the surgical procedure of ovariectomy on a
25 female dog or cat; and

26 (10) "Voucher" means a nontransferable document provided by the
27 commissioner and issued by a pound to an eligible owner authorizing
28 payment of a predetermined amount from the animal population
29 control account to a participating veterinarian.

30 Sec. 2. Section 22-380f of the general statutes is repealed and the
31 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

32 No pound shall sell or give away any unspayed or unneutered dog
33 or cat to any person unless such pound receives [forty-five dollars, of
34 which twenty dollars may be refunded pursuant to this section,] thirty-
35 five dollars from the person buying or adopting such dog or cat. [A
36 nonrefundable payment of twenty-five dollars shall be required for the
37 purchase or adoption of any unspayed or unneutered dog or cat by a
38 bona fide animal rescue or adoption organization or any representative
39 of any such organization.] Funds received pursuant to this section shall
40 be paid quarterly by the [pound] municipality into the animal
41 population control account established under section 22-380g, as
42 amended by this act. At the time of receipt of such payment, the pound

43 shall provide a [certificate] voucher, for the purpose of sterilization
44 and rabies vaccination benefits, as provided in section 22-380i, as
45 amended by this act, to the person buying or adopting such dog or cat.
46 Such [certificate] voucher shall be on a form provided by the
47 commissioner and signed by the eligible owner. [If such certificate is
48 returned to the commissioner within thirty days of the adoption or
49 purchase of the dog or cat and is signed by a licensed veterinarian,
50 stating that such dog or cat has been spayed or neutered and
51 specifying the date on which the operation was performed or that such
52 dog or cat is medically unfit for such surgery, the commissioner shall
53 refund twenty dollars to the person who purchased or adopted the
54 animal. If such certificate is not returned to the commissioner because
55 the person who purchased or adopted the dog or cat failed to have
56 such dog or cat spayed or neutered, the payment shall be considered
57 forfeited and shall be retained in the animal population control
58 account established pursuant to section 22-380g. In the case of any dog
59 or cat which is temporarily unfit for surgery or a dog or cat under the
60 age of six months, such certificate shall specify a date by which such
61 dog or cat may be fit for such surgery and the person who purchased
62 or adopted such dog or cat shall have thirty days from that date to
63 return the certificate for the refund provided for in this section.] Such
64 voucher shall become void after sixty days from the date of adoption
65 unless a participating veterinarian certifies that the dog or cat is
66 medically unfit for surgery. Such certification shall be on a form
67 provided by the commissioner and specify a date by which such dog
68 or cat may be fit for sterilization. If the surgery is performed more than
69 thirty days after such specified date, the voucher shall become void. In
70 the case of a dog or cat that has been previously sterilized or is
71 permanently medically unfit for sterilization, as determined by a
72 participating veterinarian, the voucher shall be void and the eligible
73 owner may apply to the commissioner for a refund in the amount of
74 thirty-five dollars.

75 Sec. 3. Section 22-380g of the general statutes is repealed and the
76 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

77 (a) The Commissioner of Agriculture shall (1) establish an animal
78 population control program to provide for rabies vaccination and
79 spaying and neutering services to eligible owners of dogs and cats, and
80 (2) establish an account to be known as the "animal population control
81 account". The account may contain any moneys required by law to be
82 deposited in the account. Any balance remaining in said account at the
83 end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward in said account for the
84 fiscal year next succeeding.

85 (b) The commissioner may solicit and accept funds from any public
86 or private source of help to carry out the goals of the program, [,
87 including, but not limited to, the sterilization of feral cats as provided
88 in section 22-339d.]

89 (c) Any revenue collected pursuant to the provisions of sections 22-
90 380f and 22-380l shall be deposited in the animal population control
91 account. All money in the account shall be used by the commissioner
92 exclusively for the implementation and promotion of the program and
93 for the costs associated with the administration of the program
94 provided not more than one hundred eighty thousand dollars may be
95 expended for administrative costs per year.

96 (d) The commissioner may suspend the program at any time that
97 the amount of money available in the account is less than [four] three
98 hundred thousand dollars. The commissioner may reinstate the
99 program when such amount exceeds [four] three hundred thousand
100 dollars.

101 Sec. 4. Section 22-380h of the general statutes is repealed and the
102 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

103 (a) Any veterinarian licensed pursuant to section 20-199 may file
104 with the commissioner, on forms [prescribed] provided by the
105 commissioner, an application to become a participating veterinarian in
106 the program. [and, in addition to providing any other information
107 requested by the commissioner, shall provide with such application,

108 an animal sterilization fee schedule which shall list the fees such
109 veterinarian charges for animal sterilizations in the normal course of
110 business.]

111 (b) In order to be certified by the commissioner as a participating
112 veterinarian, the veterinarian shall: (1) Perform all spay and neuter
113 surgical procedures in a veterinary hospital facility located in this state
114 that meets the standards set forth in regulations adopted by the
115 commissioner, as provided in section 20-196; (2) make all records
116 pertaining to care provided, work done and fees received for or in
117 connection with the program available for inspection by the
118 commissioner or the commissioner's representative; (3) maintain
119 records in accordance with sections 19A-14-40 to 19A-14-44, inclusive,
120 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies; and (4) hold a
121 currently valid license to practice veterinary medicine in this state
122 issued by the Connecticut Department of Public Health.

123 (c) Any licensed veterinarian of this state may be certified by the
124 commissioner as a participating veterinarian unless the commissioner
125 disqualifies such veterinarian. [Any such certification shall be for a
126 period of one year and may be renewed annually. The fee schedule
127 submitted pursuant to this section shall be valid for such period of
128 certification.] The commissioner may disqualify a veterinarian [if he
129 finds that the fee charged by such veterinarian for sterilization is
130 unreasonable or] if such veterinarian has been found in violation of
131 any provision of sections 22-380e to 22-380m, inclusive, as amended by
132 this act, or any laws relating to the practice of veterinary medicine.
133 Any veterinarian disqualified or otherwise denied participation in the
134 program may appeal, within ten days of receipt of a notice of such
135 disqualification or denial, to the commissioner who shall hold a
136 hearing to consider such appeal, in accordance with the provisions of
137 chapter 54. [The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance
138 with the provisions of chapter 54, providing standards for approval of
139 participating veterinarians under this section.]

140 (d) Complaints received by the commissioner or the commissioner's
141 representative regarding services provided by participating
142 veterinarians shall be referred to the Board of Veterinary Medicine of
143 the Department of Public Health.

144 Sec. 5. Section 22-380i of the general statutes is repealed and the
145 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

146 (a) The program established under section 22-380g, as amended by
147 this act, shall provide for [a] payment to any participating veterinarian
148 [in] of an amount equivalent to [eighty per cent of the fee charged] the
149 voucher issued pursuant to section 22-380f, as amended by this act, for
150 each animal sterilization and rabies vaccination, coincident with
151 sterilization, performed by such veterinarian upon a dog or cat owned
152 by an eligible owner. [Such veterinarian shall be paid by the
153 commissioner upon the submission of an animal sterilization
154 certificate, on a form prescribed by the commissioner, signed by the
155 participating veterinarian and the owner of the dog or cat, for each
156 sterilization performed.] For a sterilization procedure, such voucher
157 shall be in the amount of one hundred twenty dollars for a female dog,
158 one hundred dollars for a male dog, seventy dollars for a female cat
159 and fifty dollars for a male cat. In the case of a sterilization fee
160 exceeding the amount of the voucher, the eligible owner shall pay the
161 participating veterinarian the difference between such fee and the
162 amount of the voucher. Such voucher shall be in the amount of ten
163 dollars, in addition to the amount designated for sterilization, for a
164 rabies vaccination coincident with the sterilization of a dog or cat
165 owned by an eligible owner. The fee charged by the participating
166 veterinarian for such rabies vaccination shall be no more than ten
167 dollars.

168 [(b) The program established under section 22-380g shall further
169 provide for a payment to any participating veterinarian for the
170 presurgical immunization of dogs against rabies, distemper, hepatitis,
171 leptospirosis and parvovirus, or the presurgical immunization of cats

172 against rabies, feline panleukopenia, calici, pneumonitis and
173 rhinotracheitis, as the case may be, on animals not previously
174 immunized. The payment shall be for no more than ten dollars for
175 each immunization procedure and, in any case, not more than twenty
176 dollars for one animal. Such veterinarian shall be paid by the
177 commissioner upon the submission of a certificate, to be provided by
178 the commissioner and signed by the veterinarian performing such
179 operation and by the owner, stating that the animal has been
180 immunized coincident with a spaying or neutering operation under
181 the program.]

182 (b) The participating veterinarian shall be paid by the commissioner
183 for sterilization and coincident rabies vaccination of a dog or cat
184 owned by an eligible owner upon submission of the voucher issued
185 pursuant to section 22-380f, as amended by this act, and signed by
186 such veterinarian.

187 Sec. 6. Section 22-380j of the general statutes is repealed and the
188 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

189 In the event that any person who submits any cat or dog for spaying
190 or neutering to a participating veterinarian fails to retrieve such cat or
191 dog within the time recommended by such participating veterinarian,
192 such veterinarian shall transfer custody of such dog or cat to a [canine]
193 state animal control officer, regional animal control officer or a
194 municipal animal control officer, as defined in section 22-327. No
195 participating veterinarian who has performed services provided for in
196 sections 22-380e to 22-380m, inclusive, as amended by this act, shall be
197 denied payment from the [fund] account due to any failure of an
198 owner of a dog or cat to retrieve such dog or cat.

Statement of Purpose:

To reduce expenditures and streamline the administration of the Animal Population Control Program by eliminating the current reimbursement process to individuals adopting a dog or cat from pounds, establishing a voucher system that would replace the existing

system of reimbursement to participating veterinarians and lowering the program suspension figure from four hundred thousand dollars to three hundred thousand dollars.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]